

Application No. 10/661,371
Reply to Office Action of November 30, 2006
Response Dated December 27, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9 and 11-25 remain pending in the application and are subject to a Restriction Requirement. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that the Application contains claims directed to four patentably distinct species, indicated to be represented by the following figures:

- I. FIG. 13
- II. FIG. 14
- III. FIG. 15
- IV. FIG. 16

Applicants hereby elect species III, represented by FIG. 15 of the drawings, for examination on the merits. Applicants assert that claims 1, 5, 6 and 13-25 read on the elected species, and that claims 1, 6 and 13-25 are generic.

Claim 1 is the only independent claim in the Application and is directed to a linear fastener system. Claim 1 recites "a shank member including an outer gripping surface," and "a collet member having . . . an inner engaging surface." Claim 1 is therefore not limited to the specific embodiments shown in FIGS. 13-16, and therefore is generic to each of the species I-IV.

Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and is directed to the embodiment shown in FIG. 15, wherein the inner engaging surface of the collet member is conjugate to the outer gripping surface of the shank member and is knurled. (See e.g., Specification at page 14, lines 17-23.)

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Claim 6 depends from independent claim 1 and recites that the inner engaging surface has a conjugate shape in relation to the outer gripping surface of the shank member. Accordingly, claim 6 is not limited to any of the specific embodiments shown in FIGS. 13-16, and is therefore generic to each of the species I-IV.

Claims 13-15 each depend from independent claim 1 and are directed to various embodiments of a linear fastener wherein a tensioning portion of the shank member includes at least one internal bore. The Specification at page 16, line 15, through page 17, line 4, describes this configuration of a tension portion of the shank member, and the tension portion is not limited to the configurations of the outer gripping surface of the shank member or the inner engaging surface of the collet member. Accordingly, claims 13-15 are generic to each of species I-IV.

Claim 16 is directed to an embodiment of a linear fastener system wherein the tensioning portion includes a frangible stem. Claim 16 is therefore not limited to the configurations of the outer gripping surface of the shank member or the inner engaging surface of the collet member. Accordingly, claim 16 is generic to each of species I-IV.

Claims 19-25 are directed to specific materials comprising the claimed linear fastener system, and are therefore generic to each of species I-IV.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants believe this case is in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes any issue requires further discussion, the Examiner is respectfully asked to

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telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter may be promptly resolved. The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due in connection with this submission. However, if any additional fees are necessary to complete this communication, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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